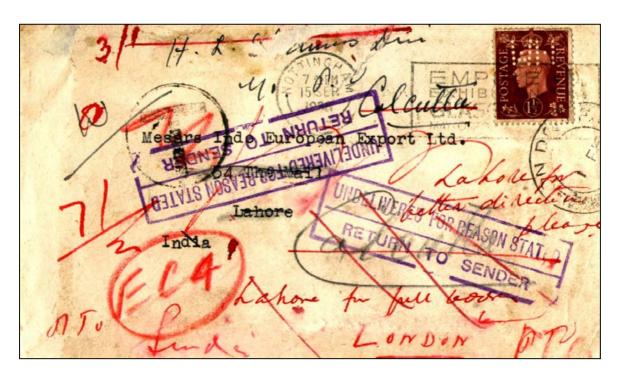
AND ALL FOR THREE HALFPENCE! Roy Gault

Could this be the most travelled POKO on record? The cover illustrated was sent by William Hollins & Co Ltd to an address in Lahore, India, and bears a KGVI dark colour 1½d perfinned "WH" (W3410.05). It was posted in Nottingham on 15th September 1938, and sports an 'Empire Exhibition, Glasgow' slogan postmark.

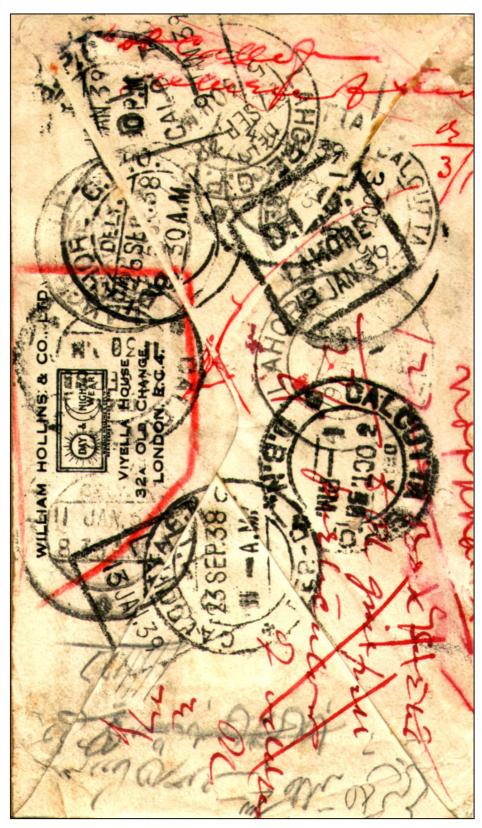


Nothing unusual in that, but we do know from the 'Undelivered for reason stated - Return to Sender' cancels on the front of the envelope that it never made it. In fact, it was delivered 139 days later to William Hollins's office in London EC4 on 1st February 1939!

The back of the envelope (illustrated full size on the next page) has at least fourteen cancels showing the various attempts made by the Indian Postal Service to deliver the letter. Although not all the cancels are completely legible, enough can be made out to plot it's path.

The letter arrived in Lahore on 19th September, then in Calcutta on 23rd September, but was back in Lahore on 26th September. After eddying around in Lahore, it arrived back in Calcutta on 3rd October. After a long delay, it received another cancel in Calcutta on 9th January 1939.

It was then sent back to Lahore, arriving there on 13th January. There followed a final flurry of activity in Lahore with cancels on the 14th and 19th January, before the decision was made to 'Return to Sender'.



By the time it arrived home on 1st February, the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow had finished, and the world was heading for war.

And all this for three halfpence!

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